be taken up as a joint venture subject to obtaining technical clearance and licence from the competent authority and approval of the Central Government.

Photo identity cards for entry at airports

295. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment are considering to issue new and comprehensive smart photo identity cards for entry at all major international and domestic airports of the country keeping in view the increasing threat of terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when such smart cards are likely to be issued; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) have issued technical specifications for the Smart Cards based airport access control system. While the system software and design as also the Central Database would be monitored by the BCAS, the airport operators would be procuring, installing and operating the system as per the BCAS prescribed specifications. Such an arrangement will facilitate interoperability and enabling monitoring of system security by BCAS.

(c) Does not arise.

Training of commercial pilots

296. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are heavy scarcity of pilots in India as getting commercial pilots licence is costly in India;

(b) if so, whether there is any policy formulated to use the Airports in India to have the accessiblity for training at affordable cost through Government and Private Training Institutes; and

(c) how many institutes are in either area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Due to the recent boom in civil aviation in the country, a scarcity of type rated pilots is being felt in the airline industry. Cost of flying training is commensurate with cost of inputs for such training.

(b) Government has taken steps to revive non-operational training institutes/ schools/academies. Upgradation of infrastructure facilities, including airports, has been initiated. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been entursted with the responsibility of upgrading the Birsi aerodrome at Gondia for setting up a new flying

training institute. Necessary approval for upgradation of infrastructure at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) has also been conveyed to IGRUA. Government also encourages private parties to set up flying training centres subject to availability of infrastructure.

(c) There are 42 flying training institutes/clubs/schools in the country of which 26 are operational. 15 of these are under Government and 11 are run by private enterprises.

Setting up of International airport at Greater Noida

297. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Mini.ster of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an International Airport at Greater Naida (U.P.);

(b) whether the Central Government have received any formal proposal from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to this effect and whether any site has been identified by State Gvoernment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expected time for coming up of the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to set an International airport near Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar District for which a site has been identified by the State Government.

(c) The project is under examination.

Development of infrastructure for expanding aviation sector

298. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that aviation sector is on the threshold of unprecedented expansion but the infrastructure therefor is unable to keep pace with the demand;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to develop necessary infrastructure to meet the demand early along with releasing the funds therefor; and

(c) The details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already initiated various measures to develop Airport and Air Navigation Services (ANS) infrastructure to meet the growing demand of the aviation sector. The capacity of terminals and aprons are being increased. Runways are being strengthened and their lengths are being increased wherever necessary ANS infrastructure is being upgraded and modernized. AAI spent Rs. 3,535 crores during the Tenth Plan (2002-07) on these